

Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council

Ordinary Meeting – 7pm Monday 13th June 2016

Birnam Institute

Minutes

1. Those present:

David Levy, Lorna Birse-Stewart, David Fox, Matthew Gerrie, Stuart Paton, Graham Rees, Helen Taylor, Cllr. Barbara Vaughan, Cllr. Grant Laing

There were no members of the public present.

Apologies were received from Na'an McLure and Sgt. MacNaughton from Police Scotland.

2. Agreement of minutes

The 9th May 2016 meeting minutes had been previously distributed by email.

a) Extraordinary General Meeting (to co-opt David Fox)

- Proposed by: Helen Taylor
- Seconded by: Matthew Gerrie

b) Ordinary Meeting

- Proposed by: Stuart Paton
- Seconded by: Matthew Gerrie

3. Recording of meetings & procedure

David Fox produced a protocol for the use and management of audio recording in D&BCC meetings, which will assist the role of the Secretary. As agreed at the last meeting, audio-recording will be trialed for three months and reviewed in September, where a decision will be made as to full adoption.

The agreed protocol ensures that all meeting attendees are aware of the audio-recording, that anyone not wishing to be recorded can request that the device is paused and that the audio-recording is to be immediately deleted once minutes are agreed.

4. Reports

a) Police

The police could not attend the meeting, due to resource implications, however they sent their apologies.

Sgt. MacNaughton had emailed the secretary to highlight the following:

- i. An appeal for witnesses to incidents of littering in Birnam along the riverside, Middle Row and under the bridge - specifically alcohol cans and bottles being deposited there on a regular basis.
- ii. Targeting of pay/display machines in public car parks in the area. The Hermitage car park at Dunkeld was recently targeted again.
- iii. A warning to residents and visitors about criminals who travel around the local beauty spots, targeting parked cars. Often the vehicles are left open or valuables are left in view. Police advice is to ensure that vehicles are locked and valuables removed from view.
- iv. A warning to residents about door-to-door services, particularly gardening or other household services, who appear to target elderly residents and charge extortionate rates for simple work, or unnecessary work (tree-pruning, gutter clearing etc.). The advice of the Police is that residents should select contractors through recommendation where possible, they should ask for a written quote for work to be done and always look for a second quote.

Any information should be forwarded directly to the Police.

b) Treasurer

Graham Rees advised the meeting that the CC account balance stands at £246.00. The Griffin micro-grant account currently stands at £2,624.95 (sufficient for at least 3 further grants before the end of the calendar year).

Graham informed members of three new micro-grant applications:

- i. The Guides have applied for a micro grant of £250 for a new camping fridge, for use on their camps. **Application approved.**
- ii. The community-led 'A9 Group' has applied for a micro-grant of £500 to support their administrative costs. It was established that, as the A9 group is not an affiliate of the Community Council and

as it does not qualify for any direct public funding, the awarding of a micro-grant is appropriate. **Application approved.**

iii. The Community Orchard volunteer group has applied for a micro-grant, totaling £380 to fund the following:

- a. £220 to install animal and winter protection for the crops.
- b. £160 for a tree-surgeon to remove a number of branches which are blocking light and affecting fruit yield.

David Levy declared his interest in the group and, whilst he provided background to the application, he withdrew from the decision of the committee. **Application approved.**

A conversation took place with regard to how the Community Council may improve their understanding of the benefits to the community, as a result of micro-grant awards. It was agreed that Graham Rees would ask successful applicants to provide information and/or a photograph if appropriate, for subsequent publication in The Bridge. Graham will also continue to publish details of grants awarded in The Bridge.

5. Matters arising and subject updates

a) Communication/website

David Fox informed the group that a number of items of correspondence had been forwarded to the website with a request for publication. A significant such item related to the forthcoming legislative change regarding air weapons and the implications for owners.

David Levy informed the group as to the recent decision by Perth & Kinross Council, to cancel their plans to close the public toilets in Dunkeld. He expressed his thanks on behalf of the Community Council, to Councillors Barbara Vaughan and Grant Laing, for their support on this matter.

The Submission of monthly articles within The Bridge magazine was discussed. It was decided that the standard articles, submitted by individual members on a rota basis, would pause for summer and recommence for the September issue. Helen Taylor agreed to prepare the rota. In the interim, Lorna Birse-Stewart and David Fox would prepare an article on the subject of Community Resilience, for submission in August.

b) Community Resilience

Lorna Birse-Stewart provided an update on the development of the local Community Resilience plan, which is nearing completion, but still really needs representation from the Dalguise, Kindallachan and Dowally communities.

Lorna outlined the importance of ensuring that the community has a good understanding of the local plan and suggested that there may be benefit in the creation of a 'working group' to oversee this. A discussion took place and Lorna agreed to use the forthcoming article in The Bridge, to generate community representative membership for a working group. The group name will be revised in order to better describe its purpose.

c) **Culture & Events**

At the time of the meeting, Na'an McLure was attending a Craft Association Event in Edinburgh. There were no items of note raised.

d) **Policing**

David Fox informed the group that he had spoken with the Police, following the discussion at the last meeting, of community concerns around road safety in Dunkeld during the summer months. He has asked the Police for increased visibility and support, where resources allow over the summer months, to tackle speeding. The request has been forwarded to their Roads Policing Unit for support.

As mentioned above, the local Policing team is dealing with anti-social littering in various locations in Dunkeld and Birnam. This prompted a discussion as to increased littering throughout the area. David Levy specifically mentioned the new picnic tables at the far side of Stanley Hill, where bottles, cans and food cartons were regularly being left. David Levy will submit an enquiry through the Council portal, requesting bins and additional signage at this and other hotspot locations. David Fox will update the Police with regard to these locations, and will request their passing attention.

e) **Roads**

Stuart Paton provided an update as to the transitioning of the A9 working group into a Community group. The first meeting of the new group is on Wednesday 15th June at the Little Dunkeld Kirk. Stuart and his colleagues are currently looking for volunteers to join the group, in order to achieve the best possible representation of community views and to inform further communication with MSP's and Transport For Scotland. Whilst the A9 group will be focusing on this work, on behalf of the community, the Community Council is keen to highlight that nothing prevents any member of the community from attending or otherwise making their views known to the Community Council; who will then share with the A9 group. This should help to maximise opportunities for the community to comment on this important issue.

f) **Broadband**

Stuart Paton informed the group that a submission had been made to Community Broadband Scotland, requesting funding and support for improvements to Broadband services to the Amulree/Strathbraan areas. He awaits a response and will update when received.

David Levy informed the group that he was aware of a forthcoming Broadband upgrade in the Dunkeld area. This information is apparently available online, although it appears that an online service upgrade is not yet available.

Graham Rees updated the group on the Butterstone Broadband project, which has recently parted company with its supplier/contractor, in favour of an alternative approach. The community, which consists of 280 properties, is looking to secure an alternative funding stream and work with an alternative supplier.

g) **Environment/Planning**

Helen Taylor presented two current planning applications, for discussion by the group. No comments were made.

h) **HPCP**

The membership of Dunkeld & Birnam Community Council to HPCP will be reviewed at the November meeting.

Helen Taylor briefed the group as to her attendance at a community engagement event on 25th May. This was one of a number of sessions, coordinated by Perth & Kinross Association of Voluntary Services (PKAVS), on behalf of the Perth & Kinross Community Planning Partnership, to engage and consult as to the future shape of community planning at a local level. This work has come about in response to the recent introduction of the Community Empowerment Act, requiring local councils to implement local partnerships, to prioritise and deal with local issues concerning poverty and inequality.

Cllr. Laing informed the group of a community planning event, to take place at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 28th June at the Birnam Institute. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and a number of the Community Council members will also be in attendance.

It is clear that this work is at an early stage and that we need a better understanding of the anticipated structure, scope and function of the developments. We also need to fully understand the proposed relationship with Community Councils and the role of HPCP. Barbara Vaughan agreed to explore further with the P&KC and update at the next meeting. Helen will also maintain contact with HPCP to gain further information from that perspective. For further discussion at the next D&BCC meeting.

i) **Road Safety and Parking**

Lorna Birse-Stewart updated the group as to the responses received, following her consultation with the community on road safety and parking issues. A number of local people and businesses have responded to Lorna, all with real concerns about pedestrian and driver safety. The majority of concerns are focused on the Bridge Street/High Street area of Dunkeld. A number of remedial and traffic-calming

options have been suggested, within the responses.

It was decided that the group should ask the Police and P&KC to attend a future meeting and comment on the issues raised. However it is important that they are provided with sufficient information and time to consider their responses. Lorna will prepare a pack of information, for forwarding the Police and Council. It is hoped that we will be able to ask for attendance to the August meeting of D&BCC. Barbara Vaughan will make contact with PKC to inform them and request their presence at the August meeting. David Fox will contact the Police and request likewise.

6. **A.O.B.**

Community Defibrillators

Graham Rees informed the group that the four defibrillators, funded with the support of a grant from the Griffin Community Fund Panel, were being installed at key locations throughout the area. A number of training sessions are being planned, to raise local awareness as to the capabilities and procedure for using the devices. David Levy thanked Graham for his work on this and asked him to provide an update on the proposed training schedule at the next meeting.

Burnmouth Road – Land access dispute

Following the attendance of a resident of Burnmouth Road at the last meeting, no further information has come to the attention of members. The resident was advised as to the benefit of consulting his local elected Councillors and PKC to establish definitively as to land-access and use. The matter is now deemed as closed by the D&BCC.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7pm, Monday, 11th July at the Birnam Institute – Members of the public are most welcome to attend.